



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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For More Information Contact
Public Relations at 508-236-8020

**STURDY MEMORIAL OFFERS PROVENGE® LIFE-EXTENDING
IMMUNOTHERAPY FOR ADVANCED PROSTATE CANCER**

ATTLEBORO, MA, October 25, 2012 – Sturdy Memorial Hospital is now an accredited provider of PROVENGE®, the first and only FDA-approved immunotherapy for advanced prostate cancer. PROVENGE is a revolutionary therapy that helps patients with metastatic prostate cancer—“metastatic” signifying that the cancer has spread from where it originated to another place in the body—to live longer.

How PROVENGE Works

Unlike a vaccine that prevents disease, PROVENGE is an “immune vaccine” that collects and then activates the patient’s own immune cells to fight prostate cancer and extend life. For each PROVENGE dose, the patient must first go through a cell collection process, called leukopheresis. Blood drawn from the body is passed through a machine that collects a small portion of the patient’s immune cells, which is then sent to an FDA-approved manufacturing facility to be custom-made into a PROVENGE dose for the patient. Immune cells are exposed to a protein that stimulates and directs them against prostate cancer cells. About three days after the cell collection procedure, the patient is infused with the PROVENGE dose, which contains activated immune cells to treat the prostate cancer. This intravenous outpatient therapy takes approximately two hours.

This process is repeated twice more. The three-dose schedule is administered at approximately two week intervals, and after the third dose, PROVENGE therapy is complete.

The Benefits of PROVENGE

PROVENGE is intended for patients with asymptomatic or minimally symptomatic, advanced prostate cancer, whose disease is known to be incurable. PROVENGE, which can be completed in about six weeks, is proven effective in extending life by months on average. The treatment’s side effects are generally mild, and include chills, fatigue, and headache.

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According to Jonathan Croopnick, MD, board certified medical oncologist at Sturdy who offers this procedure, “This innovative treatment, which is groundbreaking in establishing that a patient’s own immune system can play a role in fighting cancer, was trialed extensively before we considered adding it to our complement of cancer care services. I’m excited to be able to offer it to prostate cancer patients who meet the clinical criteria for treatment.”

To Learn More about PROVENGE

Patients with advanced prostate cancer should speak with their doctor about PROVENGE therapy. PROVENGE is covered by most insurance plans. For more information about this treatment and cancer care services at Sturdy, call **508-236-7010**.

Sturdy Memorial Hospital is a full-service, independent, financially stable, not-for-profit acute care community hospital in Attleboro, Massachusetts.

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